



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- Homeland Security Today reports that a new bill referred August 1 to the House Energy and Commerce Committee would compel the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to require all new nuclear reactors to withstand the impact of a large commercial aircraft. (See item [9](#))
- According to Voice of America, a Pakistani scientist faces charges in a New York federal courtroom that she tried to kill U.S. military and civilian authorities in Afghanistan. Authorities say she carried documents on how to make explosives and also possessed descriptions of several U.S. landmarks, including landmarks in New York. (See item [41](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 5, Reuters* – (National; Texas) **Refineries take biggest hit from storm Edouard.** Tropical Storm Edouard came ashore Tuesday morning, disrupting operations at five refineries along the upper Texas coast, but allowing energy companies to return workers to offshore production sites. The U.S. Minerals Management Service said on Tuesday six percent of offshore crude oil production was shut and 12.3 percent of natural gas output remained offline. The U.S. Gulf of Mexico supplies about a quarter of the country's crude oil output and 15 percent of its natural gas, while Gulf Coast refiners make about a quarter of domestic gasoline. Of the five affected refineries, Marathon Oil

Corp.'s 76,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery in Texas City remained shut, a precaution taken when Edouard menaced the Houston-Texas City area. Shell Oil Co.'s 285,000 bpd joint-venture Motiva Enterprises refinery in Port Arthur was restarting units hit by a power interruption Tuesday morning as the storm came ashore. The port of Houston and the Sabine Pass Ship Channel remained closed due to rough seas. The shipping interruption led Valero Energy Corp. to reduce production at its 130,000 bpd Houston refinery and its 245,000 bpd Texas City refinery.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN0530270620080805?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

2. *August 5, Reuters* – (Illinois; Indiana) **Some 288,000 customers without power in Midwest.** Some 288,000 homes and businesses in Illinois and Indiana still have no power at midday Tuesday after severe thunderstorms pummeled the area Monday night, local electric companies said. Exelon Corp.'s Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) unit reported about 219,000 customers were still in the dark, down from about 427,000 customers affected by the storm. ComEd, which serves 3.8 million customers in Chicago and northern Illinois, estimated in a release it would take several days to restore power to all customers. In southern Illinois, Ameren Corp. reported 18,000 customers without power midday Tuesday, down from 27,000 earlier in the day. In Indiana, NiSource Inc.'s Northern Indiana Public Service Co. unit reported about 52,000 customers without power, down from about 63,000 out earlier in the day.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0531300120080805>

3. *August 4, Platts* – (National; Louisiana) **Enbridge declares Stingray gas pipe force majeure due to Edouard.** The operator of the 1.395 Bcf/d Stingray natural gas corridor, Enbridge Offshore Gas Pipelines, on Monday declared force majeure on the corridor due to Tropical Storm Edouard and has halted pipeline operations. It said that the force majeure was due to severe weather and the evacuation of its West Cameron 509 compressor station as a result of the evacuation of Cameron Parish, Louisiana. It added that the Stingray Station 701 compressors are expected to shut down later Monday due to the mandatory evacuation of the parish. Enbridge also said certain deliveries on the 1.2 Bcf/d UTOS corridor would not be made. The company said that effective intra-day 2 cycle of Monday's gas day, interconnects between UTOS, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line at the SW Lateral via the Sabine Plant, and the Barracuda Plant Inlet would be unavailable for deliveries. Enbridge has evacuated about 28 people from its Garden Banks 191 and West Cameron 509 facilities, a spokesman said.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6931881.xml?sub=Natural%20Gas&p=Natural%20Gas/News&?undefined&undefined>

4. *August 4, Computerworld* – (National) **MIT: Solar power storage breakthrough could bring energy 'nirvana.'** Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology (MIT) say they have made an energy storage breakthrough that could transform solar power from an alternative energy source to a mainstream source. The university is calling the solar project a major advancement in energy research. The problem with using solar power has been figuring out an inexpensive way to store the sun's energy for those times when the sun is not shining, said a researcher on the project. Although it could be done, the cost is prohibitive with current technologies. Taking a page from photosynthesis in plant life, the researchers came up with a process to use the energy from the sun to split water into hydrogen and oxygen gases, according to a report from MIT. Later, when it is needed, the gases can be combined inside a fuel cell. That reconnection creates carbon-free electricity that can be used to power an office building, a home, or even an electric car – whether the sun is shining or not. The researcher noted that the process uses natural materials, is inexpensive to conduct, and is easy to set up. He said he is hopeful that within ten years, people will no longer power their homes using electricity-by-wire from a central source.

Source:

<http://computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9111578>

5. *August 4, Power Engineering* – (Texas) **NRG in pact for 800 MW coal-fired power plant.** NRG Texas LLC, a unit of NRG Energy, Inc., has reached agreements with the Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition and the Environmental Defense Fund in which the two groups will drop their opposition to the Limestone 3 permit application in response to a number of commitments related to emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury, and to other environmental issues including reductions in water usage. Both environmental groups initially announced their intention to intervene in and oppose NRG's permit application to add a third 800 megawatt unit to Limestone Station. The agreements include the following emissions reduction measures: Until a federal climate change program is implemented, NRG will offset or sequester 50 percent of the carbon generated by the new unit in a manner that is verifiable. These efforts could include agricultural and forestry sequestration; retiring older, less efficient generation assets; bringing new wind or solar generation online; and postcombustion carbon capture and sequestration technology at the WA Parish Plant.

Source:

http://pepei.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ARTCL&SubSection=Display&PUBLICATION_ID=6&ARTICLE_ID=336069

6. *August 4, Reuters* – (Delaware) **Valero says no impact from Del. City valve leak.** Valero Energy Corp. said on Monday there was no impact to production from a valve leak near the fluid catalytic cracker unit at its 210,000 barrel per day Delaware City, Delaware, refinery. "There was a minor leak in our Delaware City refinery that was not unit-related. The event had no impact on production," a spokeswoman for Valero said. Earlier, Valero said in a filing with Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control that a valve near the refinery's cat cracker leaked a total of 150 gallons of gasoline into a gravel area on Saturday.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0451072720080804>

Chemical Industry Sector

7. *August 5, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Y-12 fire forces evacuation.** About 95 workers were evacuated Monday at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant because of a fire at the “rubber shop” inside a high-security area of the plant. The early-morning fire was extinguished before 8:30 a.m., and the plant’s emergency status was terminated a couple of hours later, said a federal spokesman at Y-12. No radioactive materials were involved, but the official said the fire involved “a hazardous material that could potentially pose a threat to workers in the immediate vicinity of the incident.” The official later identified the chemicals involved as polyurethane resin (TC-280 Part A) and polyurethane curing agent (TC-280 Part B). “The two are mixed together to produce a closed-cell foam that is used for packaging,” he said.

Sources: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/aug/05/y-12-fire-forces-evacuation/> and http://blogs.knoxnews.com/knx/munger/2008/08/chemicals_in_y12_fire.html

8. *August 3, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Chemical spill sends several to the hospital.** Several people were sent to the hospital after a chemical was sprayed onto a roadway and several civilian vehicles. The explosion happened around 9:45 p.m. at the Goodyear plant in La Porte, Texas. Officials say that section of road remains closed after two reactors at the plant exploded sending ParaBenzene into the air, onto the roadway, and on several civilian vehicles. According to La Porte officials, several civilians drove through the chemical and may have made contact with the substance not knowing what happened. Officials said between seven and ten people drove themselves to the hospital to be checked out. A small fire also resulted from the explosion but was quickly extinguished after 15 minutes by the La Porte Fire Department.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxhouston.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7124749&version=3&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

9. *August 5, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Bill demands aircraft protection at reactors.** A new bill that would upgrade security at civilian nuclear facilities and of nuclear materials that could be used to construct a dirty bomb was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee on August 1, the bill’s sponsor, a representative from Massachusetts, revealed Monday. He announced the bill would compel the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to require all new nuclear reactors to withstand the impact of a large commercial aircraft. All facilities built after enactment of the rule would need protective measures to prevent the release of any radiation as a result of such an impact. The bill also would require all nuclear facilities to upgrade security measures for guarding their spent fuel to prevent terrorists from obtaining any radioactive material. The bill essentially would override recent declarations by the NRC that it was unnecessary for all new power plants to implement security measures against the possibility of airplane attacks, which the agency considers a “low likelihood.” The

agency's current design basis threat, a security profile mandate for all nuclear licensees, does not include aircraft among the credible threats a reactor would likely face. A rule proposed October 3, 2007, under consideration by the agency would require new power plants to assess the threat of an impact of an aircraft, but it would not have necessarily required companies to construct or install any defenses against them.

Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/4579/128/>

10. *August 5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Alabama) **24 hour fitness for duty report.** A non-licensed contract employee supervisor at the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant had a confirmed positive for alcohol during a random fitness-for-duty test. The contract employee's access to the plant has been terminated. The licensee has notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080805en.html>

11. *August 4, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Nebraska) **NRC finalizes "white" finding for Cooper nuclear plant.** The Cooper nuclear plant will continue to receive additional oversight from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) based on a violation that adversely affected the reliability of one of the plant's emergency diesel generators. The violation has been determined to be "white," indicating it is of low to moderate safety significance. The finding is based on an NRC inspection described in a report issued on May 6. The inspection identified a violation involving improper electrical maintenance of an emergency diesel generator which resulted in failure during testing on January 15. The diesel generators supply power to plant safety systems during emergencies in the event of a loss of off-site power. The licensee has taken corrective action to prevent recurrence, but the failure was significant.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-034.iv.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *August 5, USA Today* – (International; National) **Meet A-Z: The computer hacker behind a cybercrime wave.** He goes by the nickname A-Z and is one of Russia's bright young tech stars. A-Z's masterstroke is a computer program called Zeus that helps cybergangs steal people's identity data and pull off Web scams on a vast scale. Last fall, German criminals used Zeus to hijack \$6 million from banks in the U.S., U.K., Spain, and Italy, says SecureWorks. One customer used Zeus to steal user names and passwords from patrons of a Russian online stock-trading site. Zeus was also deployed to swipe 1.6 million sensitive records from job seekers at Monster.com and several other online job sites. In early summer 2007, A-Z agreed to form a partnership with a German

cybergang to pursue an ambitious heist. The gang was known for executing “man-in-the-middle” attacks. This involved infecting a PC with a virus that sits dormant until the user logs into an online bank account. The virus then comes alive and tries to execute a cash transfer to an account controlled by the crooks – while the victim is logged on and doing other banking, says the research director at iSight Partners, a risk-management firm. Still, man-in-the-middle attacks are notoriously hit-and-miss. Some banks have moved to thwart them by only allowing cash transfers from commercial accounts and requiring bank patrons to type in a special code, called a security certificate. As a rule, tech-security firms help banks under non-disclosure agreements. The names of the 20 affected banks have remained undisclosed.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/2008-08-04-hacker-cybercrime-zeus-identity-theft_N.htm

13. *August 5, USA Today* – (National) **Thieves skim credit card data at fuel pumps.**

Customers and police agencies across the U.S. are dealing with another pain at the pump – thieves who install hard-to-detect electronic devices at stations to steal credit and debit card data. The skimmed data are used to create cards used at the victims’ expense, says the president and founder of Javelin Strategy and Research, a financial consulting firm that focuses on fraud and identity theft. Investigations of theft related to skimming devices at gas pumps continue in California, Washington, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, according to various police departments. Though the most recent cases do not necessarily represent an epidemic, the Secret Service is investigating incidents across the country, says the spokesman for the agency, which has financial and electronic crimes units. Thieves increasingly target pumps because it is a cheap, easy way to steal credit and debit card information, the official says. The skimming devices can be installed outside or inside the pump. Thieves glue a plastic sleeve, equipped with covered wires that capture data, over the pump’s card reader or connect the device directly to the reader inside. The devices are molded and painted to match the machine and are small, making them hard to detect, he says. The combined cases total \$1 million to \$3.5 million stolen from hundreds of victims’ accounts, says a police official. The department is trying to prevent additional identity fraud by asking gas stations to consider placing sticker seals on the pumps that employees can check daily.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2008-08-04-gaspumpskimming_N.htm

14. *August 4, Atlanta Business Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Atlantan who headed \$14M investment scheme sent to prison.**

A Georgia man was sentenced Monday to about ten years in jail on charges of wire fraud and money laundering relating to a \$14 million scheme he used to fund a gambling habit. From the late 1990s through 2005, the suspect solicited more than \$30 million from almost 100 people, as part of what turned out to be a phony real estate financing business. According to the testimony and statements from several of the victims, he told them that he would use their money to fund specialized short term “bridge” loans at high rates of interest to real estate developers and others who needed such financing. He lured this investment by offering extraordinary interest rates – often as high as five percent in 20 to 30 days. He claimed he could pay these rates because he was earning even higher rates of interest on the bridge loans he was

making. However, the fraudster never actually made any short term loans or otherwise used any of the victims' money for any business purpose. In the end, more than 20 victims lost more than \$14 million.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2008/08/04/daily16.html>

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Transportation Sector

15. *August 5, Newsday* – (New York) **Emergency landing at JFK after LaGuardia takeoff.** An American Airlines MD-80 bound for Atlanta was forced to make an emergency landing Monday when one of its two rear-mounted engines failed shortly after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport, airline officials said. The plane landed a short time later at Kennedy Airport. No one was injured, and the cause of the engine failure was not known Monday, said an American Airlines spokesman. Debris, believed to be from one of the aircraft's two rearmounted engines, fell to the runway below. The pilot had difficulty gaining altitude and control of the aircraft, said the National Air Traffic Controllers president at LaGuardia. Controllers cleared aircraft from airspace around that plane; notified Port Authority security, New York City police, and fire department about the emergency; and notified JFK officials to do the same, in case the pilot decided to try to land there. MD-80s like the one that landed Monday at JFK have had their share of problems this year. Over March 26 and March 27, and then again between April 8 and April 12, a Federal Aviation Administration safety audit against American Airlines forced the airline to ground its MD-80 series fleet to inspect the aircraft's hydraulic wiring. American was forced to cancel nearly 2,500 flights in March and more than 3,200 in April.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/ny-liair0805,0,2837895.story>

16. *August 5, Newsday and Associated Press* – (New York) **Port Authority threatens to fight Bush airport plan.** The Port Authority is threatening to block a Bush administration plan to auction slots at New York's three major airports, claiming the process will not reduce delays and only increase ticket prices. On Monday, the Port Authority – which manages Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Newark airports – issued a legal notice on its Web site and to airlines that it will refuse to accept any government-auctioned flights. The agency claims it has a legal right not to allow auctioned flights, although a lawyer for the U.S. Department of Transportation, which previously announced the plan, called that move illegal. U.S. airports saw near-record delays last year, and the government says backups in New York were responsible for two out of three flights delayed 15 minutes or more. Under the new plan, the government will require carriers at the three airports to auction off ten to 20 percent of their existing slots over the next five years and possibly retire others, in combination with limits on the number of flights at peak hours. Government officials say such an auction is the best way to use market forces to cut inefficiencies in the system and make air travel more reliable. The Port Authority's director of aviation said auctioning could raise fares an average of 12 percent and cut off service to New York from 25 small and midsize airports, since auctions would favor aircraft operating between larger locations.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/transportation/ny->

17. *August 5, Associated Press* – (Illinois; Texas) **Airlines warn of delays, relax rebooking rules ahead of Edouard.** Airlines warn that Tropical Storm Edouard could scramble air travel in Texas, causing delays and flight cancellations over the next couple of days. The carriers recommended Monday that passengers call ahead to make sure flights are still on schedule. Continental Airlines said that with weather conditions likely to worsen, it expects delays and cancellations at airports in the region through Wednesday. Southwest Airlines issued a travel advisory for Houston due to the storm, which was expected to make landfall in Louisiana or southeastern Texas on Tuesday. American Airlines also enacted a fee-waiver policy when Edouard hit hurricane watch-status Monday afternoon, a spokesman said. In Chicago, late Monday, the storms set off tornado warnings for downtown Chicago. Fans were evacuated from the stands at Chicago's Wrigley Field, interrupting the Cubs-Astros game, and travelers were evacuated from the upper levels of terminals and planes at O'Hare International Airport. Travelers at O'Hare International Airport were evacuated into the lower levels of the complex's buildings. All flights were temporarily halted, and travelers who had already boarded airplanes were taken off and also were sent to the lower levels as a precaution. The storms did not cause any damage or injuries at O'Hare or Midway Airport, said a Department of Aviation spokesman. However, more than 350 flights were canceled at O'Hare. Security guards at Chicago's Ogilvie Train Station, just off the Chicago River, ushered people away from large glass windows and into the middle of the building. Sources: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-08-04-tropical-storm-flight-delays_N.htm and <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jW-BndswWuhgPAPXOK4Q6TCQsANQD92C58S00>
18. *August 5, Washington Times* – (National) **Bush extends Mexican truck program.** The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved a bill Friday to prohibit continuation of the Mexican truck program beyond its original end date of September 6. That measure still requires a vote by the full House when lawmakers return in September. However, the administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration said the program has been successful and deserves to be expanded. He said the program is designed to save consumers money by reducing shipping costs. Ten U.S. companies are participating in the program – an outgrowth of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement that cut trade barriers among the U.S., Mexico, and Canada – running 55 trucks south of the border. Twenty-seven Mexican companies have joined the program, operating 107 trucks in the U.S. The program's terms permit up to 500 trucks from 100 Mexican motor carriers full access to U.S. roads. Source: <http://www.washtimes.com/news/2008/aug/05/bush-extends-mexican-truck-program/>
19. *August 5, Bloomberg* – (National) **Missing laptop keeps firm from registering new fliers.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) suspended Verified Identity Pass from enrolling travelers in its pre-screening program after a laptop computer containing the records of 33,000 people went missing. The company, based in New York, lost possession of the laptop July 26 at San Francisco International Airport. The

laptop contained unencrypted pre-enrollment records of individuals, the TSA said in a statement Monday. The laptop had the names, addresses, and driver's license or passport numbers of mostly online applicants to the Registered Travel program, which allows customers to pass quickly through security checkpoints at 17 U.S. airports, the company said in an e-mailed statement. Verified Identity Pass has more than 200,000 customers. It already started notifying the affected people about the breach. The laptop was stolen from a locked office in the airport, the company said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/04/AR2008080402703.html>

20. *August 5, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Many California bridges still need earthquake upgrades.** The state of California owns more than 12,000 bridges. The California Department of Transportation says that in the last 20 years it has retrofit 2,189 of the 2,194 bridges that needed updates, many of which are on freeways and other major corridors. The remaining five bridges are the eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the Ten Mile River Bridge on California 1 in Mendocino County, the High Street bridge on Interstate 880 in Oakland, the 5th Avenue bridge on I-880 in Oakland, and the Schuyler Heim Bridge that connects Long Beach to Terminal Island. In addition, 479 bridges owned by cities and counties need seismic upgrades and are eligible for funding from Proposition 1B, the \$19.9-billion transportation bond approved by California voters in 2006. Among these bridges that still need seismic updates are some noteworthy structures in the Southland. The Los Angeles Conservancy has expressed concerns about the river bridges in particular, saying that although the need for public safety must be met, fixes should also consider the bridges' historical architecture.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-roadsage5-2008aug05,0,4747324.column>

21. *August 4, KEYE 42 Austin* – (Texas) **Man hijacks Capital Metro bus in Austin.** A Capital Metro bus was hijacked in Austin Monday morning. Just before 7 a.m., police say a man got on a Capital Metro bus at 5th and San Jacinto Streets in downtown Austin. At some point during the ride, he told the driver to go somewhere other than the planned route. He threatened the driver with a knife but never showed it. The driver complied and took her bus off its assigned route. The driver was uninjured, and there were no other passengers on the bus at the time. An aerial and ground search, with patrol officers and dogs, did not locate the suspect.

Source:

http://www.keyetv.com/mostpopular/story.aspx?content_id=ab323b01-dbf6-43d9-aadf-c629d753a5c7

22. *August 4, digtriad.com* – (North Carolina) **Copper theft disables rail road crossing arms.** Copper thefts are becoming a common report to law enforcement. On Friday, August 1, officers assigned to the Davidson County, North Carolina, Sheriff's Office B&E Task Force arrested a man who stole copper from rail road tracks. The incident occurred between Biesecker Rd and Park Circle Rd area. The suspect cut the lines using bolt cutters and hand held wire cutters. The copper wires controlled the railroad crossing

arms, and without the copper wires the arms were disabled.

Source:

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/watercooler/article.aspx?storyid=108531&catid=176>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *August 5, KPAX Missoula 8* – (Montana) **Number of bison killed by anthrax on Turner ranch rises.** The Montana Department of Livestock spokesman confirmed that nearly 80 bison are now dead. In addition, part of Spanish Creek Road remained closed as of Tuesday morning as about nine miles of the road passes right through a quarantine area. The Montana Department of Livestock spokesman said, “This is the first time it has happened in the Gallatin Valley, however the disease has occurred in parts of northeast Montana.” He added that the threat to humans from this strain of Anthrax is low at this time.

Source: <http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8786571>

24. *August 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Mass. scrutinizes 6 cases of E. coli.** Federal and state health officials are investigating the cases of six people in Massachusetts who were sickened by a virulent strain of E. coli that appears linked to those found in several other states, officials said yesterday. At least five of the Massachusetts victims were hospitalized. Their ages range between 3 and 60, and they include residents of Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex counties, according to the state Department of Public Health. A source of the Massachusetts contamination has not been identified, but state and U.S. Department of Agriculture investigators are focusing on ground beef, the medical director of the epidemiology program for the state health department said. Testing of samples collected from several stores will be conducted this week, the public health department said in a statement. “Massachusetts cases were linked by DNA testing and by comparing those results to results from others around the country through a federal food-borne illness surveillance program called PulseNet,” according to the statement. Nebraska Beef Ltd. of Omaha has recalled 5.3 million pounds of ground beef linked to E. coli illnesses across the nation. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 49 cases in Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Utah.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/08/05/mass_scrutinizes_6_cases_of_e_coli/

25. *August 4, Reuters* – (International) **Killer herpes decimates French oysters.** A herpes virus is killing young oysters in France, an oyster crisis team has found after spending

weeks investigating a mysterious surge in mortality among the mollusks. France's main marine research institute, Ifremer, set up the crisis team on July 3 and its members have been working to understand why 40 to 100 percent of oysters aged 12 to 18 months were dying in all but one of France's breeding areas. An Ifremer spokeswoman said on Monday the team had established that a virus called Oyster Herpesvirus type 1, or OsHV-1, was killing young oysters, helped by unfavorable weather conditions that had weakened the mollusks. There is no cure for OsHV-1. Ifremer, which suggested that the mollusks have spent too much energy developing their sexual organs rather than their natural defenses, is continuing its investigations and admits that other factors could be contributing, such as toxic seaweed or *Vibrio Splendidus*, another virus present in France this year. France produces about 110,000 tons of oysters a year, according to Ifremer data. It is the world's fourth biggest producer after China, Korea, and Japan.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSL432917020080804?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews&sp=true>

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Water Sector

26. *August 5, Stars and Stripes* – (International) **Coliform detected at Navy housing.**

Coliform bacteria was in the tap water of about one-third of off-base houses tested in the first phase of a health study by the U.S. Navy in Naples, officials reported. Forty-eight of 160 houses turned up traces of total coliform and/or fecal coliform bacteria, prompting health officials to warn residents not to consume tap water. But the presence of the coliform bacteria in nearly one-third of the samplings "might not be scientifically significant," said a spokeswoman for Navy Region Europe. She said health and environmental experts hired by the Navy are still awaiting results of additional testing done on both water and soil samples taken from the houses, which made up Phase I of the health assessment. Total coliform bacteria occur naturally in the environment and generally harmless. Fecal coliform bacteria typically are found in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals, including humans, and the presence of fecal coliform in water is a strong indication of recent sewage or animal waste contamination, according to the national Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention.

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=56558&source=rss>

27. *August 4, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **EPA proposes cleanup plan at Sayreville sites.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a plan for final cleanup at two Superfund sites in Sayreville, New Jersey; both sites are on the south shore of the Raritan River. They are contaminated with a variety of chemicals that have entered drainage channels that run into a marsh adjacent to the river. The EPA says it has removed 3,000 drums, cleaned up dioxin and mercury spills, and disposed of contaminated soil since 1985.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--superfundsite0804aug04,0,534841.story>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *August 5, Jackson Clarion-Ledger* – (Mississippi) **Officials don't fix health lab woes.** Mississippi lawmakers failed Monday during a special legislative session to bail out the state Public Health Lab, causing health officials to scramble for solutions. The lab processes more than 600,000 specimens a year, and unless health officials appeal, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is set to revoke the lab's license August 25. CMS told Mississippi health officials on June 25 that it would seek to revoke the lab's license for up to two years for violating protocol on lab tests. House Bill 22 would have established the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory as a new administrative unit of the state Department of Health, distinguishing it from the lab now facing loss of certification. The bill also would have established a special fund in the state treasury for the lab's operation with deposits from fees and other income the lab generated. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had cited the lab for a number of deficiencies in a report dated May 10, 2007. Federal officials cited deficiencies that included repeated failures to turn around lab tests in the time required.

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080805/NEWS010504/808050379/1001/news>

29. *August 4, Bloomberg* – (National) **Chronic illness common among uninsured, study finds.** An estimated 11.4 million working-age Americans without health insurance have chronic illnesses, among them diabetes, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease, according to a new study in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* released Monday. Of those patients, 23 percent had not seen a health provider in the last year, compared with six percent of the chronically ill who had insurance. The uninsured that were chronically ill were six times more likely to list emergency rooms as where they went regularly for care. Patients with at least one chronic and treatable condition are 31 percent of the estimated 36 million uninsured Americans ages 18 to 64, according to the study. Some may face early disability and death for lack of care. The findings are at odds with statements by policy makers who argue the "predicament of uninsured persons is often voluntary and rarely consequential," the authors wrote. The study analyzed data from interviews conducted with 12,486 patients from 1999 to 2004 as part of the government's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Those 65 and older were excluded because they are generally covered by the government's Medicare program. The results probably underestimate the health problems of people without insurance because they are less likely to know of their illnesses, the authors said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=a3S9yfhOv7gM&refer=home>

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *August 5, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Y-12 fire forces evacuation.** About 95

workers were evacuated Monday at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, because of a fire at the “rubber shop” inside a high-security area of the plant. The early-morning fire was extinguished before 8:30 a.m., and the plant’s emergency status was terminated a couple of hours later, said a federal spokesman at Y-12. He said no details were available on what caused the fire, but an investigation is under way. No radioactive materials were involved, but the fire involved “a hazardous material that could potentially pose a threat to workers in the immediate vicinity of the incident.” The hazardous material was not immediately identified. This was the third Monday emergency in the past four weeks at the government’s Oak Ridge facilities. A week earlier Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Holifield Radioactive Ion Beam Facility was evacuated because of elevated radiation levels, and two weeks before that workers were evacuated at parts of the East Tennessee Technology Park because of a release at M&EC’s hazardous-waste processing facility.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/aug/05/y-12-fire-forces-evacuation/>

31. *August 4, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Plane violates Camp David airspace.** The Federal Aviation Administration and the Secret Service say a plane violated the airspace around Camp David in Maryland. The Secret Service says the incident happened around noon Monday, though FAA officials say it was more than an hour later when a Piper aircraft went two-and-a-half miles inside the restricted area. A Secret Service spokesman says the pilot cooperated with the Secret Service, but he would not provide more details. The spokesman says the president was not at Camp David during the incident. He was there Sunday hosting an overnight visit from Dubai’s ruler.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g7JyNbr8gV1BHcT_4Nk_OMMbzb6AD92BR2O00

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *August 4, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Volunteer fire departments struggling to keep up emergency services.** Rural areas of Nebraska and other states are struggling to maintain emergency fire and medical services. In Big Springs, for example, the local volunteer department often has to call a Colorado department that is 13 miles away for help responding to wrecks along Interstate 80. Fire chiefs in Nebraska and elsewhere say the lack of volunteers is not a crisis yet, but that one may be looming. While there used to be waiting lists to become a volunteer firefighter, now communities like Ogallala have many openings and some towns must recruit members. At the same time, the number of medical calls is increasing.

Source: http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=8783324&nav=menu605_2

33. *August 4, New England Cable News* – (New Hampshire) **New system connects first responders in an emergency.** A New Hampshire company is making it easier and safer for emergency responders to do their job. The first-intercomm system allows police, firefighters, and others to communicate more easily in a chaotic environment. It proved to be one of the biggest hurdles for first responders on 9/11. Radios rendered effectively

useless in a major crisis. First intercomm is a wireless router that allows police, fire, and emergency medical systems radios to communicate with each other no matter the frequency or bandwidth they are on. The Souhegan mutual aid district is one of the first in the country to put the system in place. Now when different departments are on the same scene, one commander can talk to everyone from the same post.

Source: <http://www.necn.com/Boston/Business/New-system-connects-first-responders-in-an-emergency/1217886740.html>

34. *August 4, KYpost.com* – (Ohio) **UC holds terror drill exercise.** The University of Cincinnati held a terror drill Monday in preparation for the upcoming fall term. The afternoon drill was a “functional exercise” where people assumed roles as though it were an actual emergency. The scenario simulated an on-campus shooting set up in the Old Chemistry building. Monday’s exercise was designed to test how various departments interacted with one another. The university also tested its warning system by sending a text message out to cell phones.

Source: http://www.kypost.com/content/wcposhared/story.aspx?content_id=52125813-0e20-4975-a620-b12186ec4207

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Information Technology

35. *August 5, Computerworld* – (National) **Microsoft to predict exploitability of its own bugs.** Microsoft will soon begin predicting each month whether newly found bugs in its software will be exploited, the company said Monday. The company also spelled out changes to how much information it gives customers and rival security companies about vulnerabilities, and when. Starting in October, Microsoft will add an “Exploitability Index” to the security bulletins it issues when it releases patches for Windows and its other software. Also in October, said Microsoft’s director of security response and outreach, the company will begin providing select third-party security vendors with technical information about each month’s vulnerabilities before patches are posted in order to give those companies a head start in crafting exploit-detection signatures.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9111618&intsrc=news_ts_head

36. *August 5, Computerworld* – (International) **Apple gets bruised in vulnerability report.** Apple has taken the place of Microsoft for disclosing more vulnerabilities than any other vendor, according to an IBM security report. The company rose from second place in 2007 to take the top spot away from Microsoft, which had fallen into third place behind open source content management system Joomla. Final results were close, according to the IBM X-Force 2008 mid-year report, with Apple achieving vulnerability disclosure score of 3.2 percent, followed by Joomla with 2.7 percent and Microsoft at 2.5 percent. IBM remained in fourth spot, followed by Sun, a newcomer to the top five, while Oracle and Cisco fell from their former positions to sixth and seventh respectively. The company attributes their appearance to a rise in Web application flaws, predominantly cross-site scripting (XSS) and SQL injection attacks which account for 51 percent of all

vulnerabilities.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php/id;1490050411;fp;2;fpid;1>

37. *August 4, Register* – (International) **Dutch botnet herders arrested.** Dutch police have arrested two Dutch brothers suspected of running a botnet controlling 40,000 to 100,000 computers, with only a small portion (1,100 computers) based in the Netherlands. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been investigating this case for a while before contacting the Dutch authorities. The arrests were made shortly after the two young bot-herders from the Frisian town of Sneek sold their network of compromised machines to a person in Brazil for €25,000 on Tuesday. The FBI has not revealed what the botnet was going to be used for, but Brazil along with Turkey and Russia hosts the highest number of zombies worldwide. Most botnets are exploited for denial-of-service attacks, click fraud, spamdexing and the theft of application serial numbers, login IDs, and financial information such as credit card numbers.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/08/04/dutch_botnet_herders_arrested/

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

38. *August 4, Reuters* – (Minnesota) **Telecom company challenges Minnesota city's bond issue.** The fate of \$26.4 million of revenue bonds issued by Monticello, Minnesota, in May to finance a fiber optic network lies in the hands of a Wright County judge. The bond proceeds are parked in an escrow fund pending a ruling in a lawsuit filed against the city by Bridgewater Telephone Co, the Monticello-based subsidiary of TDS Telecom, which in turn is a unit of Chicago-based Telephone and Data Systems Inc. The lawsuit, filed in May, seeks to void the bonds. It contends the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds for a "fiber-to-the premises" broadband communications network was not allowed under Minnesota law, as well as claiming that the city failed to hold a referendum on the bond issue and unlawfully planned to use some bond proceeds for operating expenses.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssTechMediaTelecomNews/idUSN0449634320080804?sp=true>

39. *August 4, Florida Times-Union* – (Florida) **Comcast cable cut severs City Hall, school board and others.** A sliced ComCast fiber optics cable has put Jacksonville's City Hall web site (www.coj.org), the Duval County school district's site (www.duvalschools.org), and an unknown number of business customers on hold for the

day. Comcast officials blamed the cut on a utility crew accident downtown Monday morning.

Source: <http://news.jacksonville.com/justin/2008/08/04/comcast-cable-cut-severs-city-hall-school-board-and-others/>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *August 5, Associated Press* – (International) **China tightens security after attack.**

Police tightened security checks on roads and public buses in China's far western Xinjiang region on Tuesday, a day after a deadly attack on police heightened security jitters ahead of the Beijing Olympics. Xinhua News Agency reported that authorities reinforced the police presence on roads leading into Kashgar and ordered a full security alert in public places, including government office buildings, schools, and hospitals. Police boarded vehicles at checkpoints to search passengers' bags, Xinhua said. In Xinjiang's capital of Urumqi, police used handheld devices to check residents' security cards in routine street patrols. Fully armed officers have been patrolling public bus routes since early July, Xinhua said. The attack in a city near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border brought an immediate response from China's Olympic organizers, who pronounced security precautions ready to ensure safety in Beijing and other Olympic venues when the Games open Friday. China has made safety a major priority for the Olympics, mobilizing hundreds of thousands of police, military, and local residents as part of a huge security net over the capital.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121793184571613133.html?mod=hpp_us_whats_news

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *August 5, Voice of America* – (National) **U.S.-educated Pakistani woman facing charges in NY.**

A Pakistani scientist with alleged ties to al-Qaida will appear in a federal courtroom in New York Tuesday to face charges she tried to kill U.S. military and civilian authorities in Afghanistan. A federal prosecutor said late Monday that she was arrested in Ghazni province in mid-July outside the provincial governor's compound. Authorities say she was carrying documents on how to make explosives. She also possessed descriptions of several U.S. landmarks, including landmarks in New York.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-08-05-voa17.cfm>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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